

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3018

Introduced by Assembly Member Nunez
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Bass and De Leon)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Davis, De La Torre, Eng, Hancock,
Laird, Mullin, Price, Ruskin, Solorio, and Swanson)

February 22, 2008

An act to add Division 8 (commencing with Section 15000) to the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to job training.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3018, as introduced, Nunez. California Green Collar Jobs Act of 2008: green jobs.

Existing law contains various programs for job training and employment investment.

This bill would set forth legislative findings and declarations relating to the state's green economy and the increasing demand for a highly skilled and well-trained green collar workforce, and would enact the California Green Collar Jobs Act of 2008 requiring the Secretary of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, in consultation with representatives from various public and private groups, to develop a comprehensive array of programs, strategies, and resources to address the workforce needs that accompany California's growing green economy and to establish, among other programs, green job training programs for eligible individuals, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Division 8 (commencing with Section 15000) is added to the Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:

DIVISION 8. CALIFORNIA GREEN COLLAR JOBS ACT

15000. This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Green Collar Jobs Act of 2008.

15001. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) The State of California has long been a national and international leader on environmental, natural resource, and energy policy, as well as most recently, landmark laws on climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and alternative transportation fuel.

(2) These laws have resulted in billions of dollars of investment capital pouring into the State of California for research, development, and commercialization of new green technologies. This vast amount of investment capital is indicative of the rapidly growing clean and green technology sector of the California economy.

(3) As the green economy grows, there is an increased demand for, and recognition of, the need for a highly skilled and well-trained “green collar” workforce.

(4) It is critically important for the State of California to act promptly to build and expand the necessary partnerships and programs as well as identify the resources necessary to meet our statewide green collar workforce needs. Such an effort must involve our kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and higher education systems, labor unions, environmental community, workforce development programs, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector industries.

(b) With more and more California businesses dedicated to researching, developing, and commercializing clean and green technologies in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and alternative transportation fuels, there will be an increasing demand for a well-trained, highly skilled workforce to perform the jobs created by California’s

1 continued ingenuity, leadership, and innovation in the green
2 economy sector.

3 (c) In order to meet most effectively the workforce needs that
4 face California's emerging green economy, the state must create
5 a partnership of public and private organizations tasked with
6 coordinating our statewide workforce training and development
7 efforts.

8 15002. (a) The Secretary of the Labor and Workforce
9 Development Agency, in consultation with representatives from
10 the Community College Chancellor's Office, University of
11 California Board of Regents, State Department of Education,
12 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of
13 Veterans Affairs, the Superintendent of Public Instruction,
14 California Environmental Protection Agency, as well as energy,
15 alternative fuels, consumer, financial, labor, environmental justice,
16 and other groups, shall develop a comprehensive array of programs,
17 strategies, and resources to address the workforce needs that
18 accompany California's growing green economy.

19 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that this working group be
20 known as the Green Collar Jobs Council (GCJC), an
21 intergovernmental partnership.

22 (c) The GCJC shall develop the framework, funding, strategies,
23 programs, and opportunities to address the growing need for a
24 highly skilled and well-trained workforce to meet the needs of
25 California's emerging green economy. The council shall do all of
26 the following:

27 (1) Assist in identifying and linking green collar job
28 opportunities with workforce development training opportunities
29 in the various regions of the state.

30 (2) Create public, private, and nongovernmental partnerships
31 to build and expand the state's workforce development programs,
32 network, and infrastructure.

33 (3) Establish job training programs in the clean and green
34 technology sectors to assist and prepare specific populations, such
35 as at-risk youth, displaced workers, veterans, formerly incarcerated
36 individuals, and others facing barriers to employment.

- 1 (4) Develop statewide and regional labor market data on
- 2 California's new and emerging green industries workforce needs,
- 3 trends, and job growth.